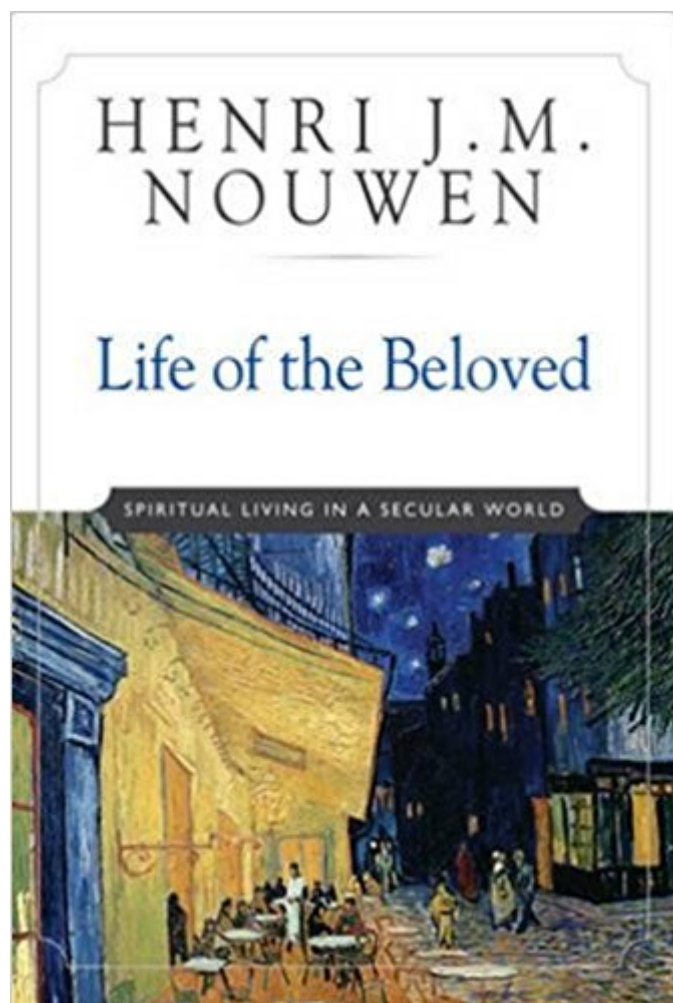


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Life Of The Beloved: Spiritual Living In A Secular World



Synopsis

Initially written for a Jewish friend, *Life of the Beloved* has become Henri Nouwen's greatest legacy to Christians around the world. This sincere testimony of the power and invitation of Christ is indeed a great guide to a truly uplifting spiritual life in today's world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A beautiful and sensitive book that reaches out to the believer." -- Church and Synagogue Library Association
"Anyone who is searching for the Spirit of God in the world today will benefit from reading it." -- Horizons
"For those unfamiliar with his work, this volume is a wonderful place to begin. Another significant achievement." -- Circuit Rider
"Gentle and searching. This Crossroad book is a spiritual primer for anyone seeking God." -- The Other Side
--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Over 200,000 copies in print! When Nouwen was asked by a secular Jewish friend to explain his faith in simple language, he responded with his greatest legacy, *Life of the Beloved*, which shows that all people, believers and nonbelievers, are beloved by God unconditionally.

This is a fabulous book, capturing the essence of Nouwen's central claim: one of the core identities and understandings of what it means to be human is to be the Beloved of God. Written to a non-practicing person of faith, it offers an immediate connection to Christians aware of the disconnect with faith and culture. The Biblical claim, underneath the language of Beloved and

particularly expounded upon in the writings of Henri Nouwen, speaks directly against the modern temptation to reduce human value to productivity. A really good book.

I was deeply moved by this book. You do not have to be a Christian to read this book or be transformed by it. The notion that we are all Beloved simply for being who we are is powerful. Nouwen takes the reader on this journey and shows you how to discover your own belovedness, and see and accept that same belovedness in others.

One of my favorites! I buy this book and highlight and underline specific portions and then give it away to specific friends as an encouragement gift. The topics are deep, however it is so readable and puts into words amazing concepts of how we are loved. This is not a trendy "how-to" Christian book. It is a solid and impacting read. I can reread it and have personal revelation over and over. It could be read by people of all faiths.

I read through the scathing one star review prior to ordering this book and while some of the points that were made in that review are valid, I have to disagree with that review. Nouwen was asked to write something about spirituality for his Jewish friends which he did. While he did not cite any biblical passages by giving chapter and verse, he did quote some verses although not completely verbatim. I do not believe that he wrote this with the intent of trying to convert a Jew to a Christian. He wrote it in an attempt to show how we are all God's children, made in His image and that because of that, all are worthy of His love. The choice is ours as to accept or reject His love as it is to return or not return that love back to Him. In the epilogue his friend for whom this was written told him honestly that what Nouwen had written had nothing in it that they as a Jew could relate to. Nouwen then not knowing what to do with his writing showed the work to some Christian friends to whom this piece spoke to as it did me which thus became the book. I found it to be uplifting and will be for those that are also seeking plainly written explanations that, while biblically based, are not referenced to. There are opinions of Nouwen throughout the book but these opinions are that of a seasoned minister who has spent his life doing the work of the Lord and are rooted in the bible. This book will help those that have read the bible and find the writing style to be much like a newspaper report: just the facts. This book as well (as the works of Max Lucado and Philip Yancey), is insightful and will reach into the heart and show just how beloved we all are in God's eyes.

This was highly recommended to me as I was going through a very difficult time in my life. I almost

dismissed it as "new age" or "unitarian" (I am highly skeptical of such books because I'm a Christian), but I realize that I misjudged it. This book is excellent for believers and non-believers alike as it explains living a spiritual life in a secular world (written kind of as a letter to a secular Jew by his close friend who is a Catholic priest). It also offers excellent, simple, and clear advice for overcoming grief and sorrow in our lives. It lays an excellent framework for how to live more effectively in this world.

Renovate book club selection for 2017. Nouwen writes this particular work especially for sharing with others who have either given up on God or never had a relationship with God. For me, it is a revisit. This book meant a great deal to me several years ago. Now I am a different person than I was then; and the work speaks to my heart in a different way

Purchased multiple copies as gifts for pals.

I appreciated how this book was birthed out of friendship to help one another embrace our identity as the Beloved of God. Nouwen uses the image of Taken, Blessed, Broken, and Given in the Eucharist to point us to a new perspective of seeing ourselves "in Christ" as the Beloved. Helpful, but with a lot of points of disagreement and vagueness.

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